

Director, FBI

2/4/58

SAC, Cincinnati

CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.

Enclosed for the Bureau and SAC Little Rock are copies of documents being mailed today for Circuit Riders, Inc. as shown by letterhead.

Bureau well knows M. G. LOWMAN and Circuit Riders as friendly Methodist Lay Organization endeavoring to expose Communist infiltration in religious groups.

The documents are made available to Little Rock inasmuch as similar documents are today being placed in the hands of numerous sources in the Little Rock area and relate to persons prominent in Little Rock.

For the benefit of SAC Little Rock, the FBI does not designate other than public source information to the Circuit Riders; does not vouch or comment on, in any way, concerning the releases issued by Circuit Riders.

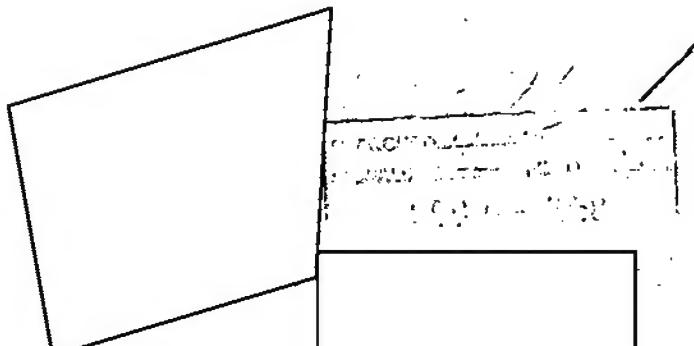
[redacted] confidentially

[redacted] advised February 3, 1958, that [redacted] for certain white parents in the Little Rock controversy, and who initially alleged that the FBI tapped telephones, will in the immediate future make a public retraction in his appearance before a joint session of the Virginia legislature. This retraction was engineered and written by M. G. LOWMAN.

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2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
1 - Little Rock (Enc. 6) (Personal Attention)
1 - Cincinnati

EDN:pat
(4)



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Circuit Riders, Inc.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO
Dunbar 1-6140

M. G. LOWMAN, Executive Secretary
February 4, 1958

SPUTNIK

Lee Lorch, a member of the faculty at Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas, has been identified in Congressional hearings as a Communist. His wife, Grace Lorch, also has a record of Communist affiliation.

M. Lafayette Harris, President, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas, has at least 10 incidents of Communist affiliation.

Charles S. Johnson, the deceased president of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, had at least 14 incidents of Communist affiliation.

Henry Hitt Crane, Detroit, Michigan, who was publicized in the Communist Daily Worker as a featured speaker at the heroine-establishing dinner for Grace Lorch, has a public record of at least 41 Communist affiliations.

Are we to regard as coincidental the Communist affiliations and relationships of these individuals, whose public records are attached hereto?

Every sputnik requires a launching platform. Whether or not M. Lafayette Harris, and the administration leaders at Philander Smith College, claim unwitting use of a church-connected institution, the fact still remains that a Little Rock church-connected college has been a launching platform for an Arkansas Sputnik.

M. G. Lowman

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
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February 26, 1957

Lee Lorch

(1) Committee to End Sedition Laws -- signer of statement -- press release, November 19, 1955

(2) Communist Party -- identified as a member of the Communist Party by John J. Edmiston, Martha Edmiston, and David H. Levison -- Hearings of House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1950, pages 2675 and 2820

(3) Communist Party -- in testifying before House Committee, refused on grounds of first and fifth amendments, excluding section relating to self-incrimination, to answer all questions relating to membership in the Communist Party -- 1954 annual report, p. 11

(4) National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions -- signer of statement asking end to DuBois indictment -- Daily Worker, June 29, 1951, page 8

(5) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- signer of letter protesting Congressional hearings on SCEF -- letter, June 10, 1954

(6) Town and Village Committee to End Discrimination in Scuyvesant Town -- supporter of -- Daily Worker, October 31, 1949, page 2

September 11, 1957

M. LAFAYETTE HARRIS
President, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas

(1) Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, an auxiliary of International Labor Defense -- sponsor -- booklet, August 1945

(2) Council on African Affairs -- endorser of program -- New Africa, October 1945

(3) Methodist Federation for Social Action -- signer of statement defending MFSA after Kansas City meeting -- leaflet, December 27-29, 1947

(4) National Federation for Constitutional Liberties -- signer of statement opposing renewal of the Dies Committee -- pamphlet, January 1943

(5) National Federation for Constitutional Liberties -- signer of statement approving War Department's order permitting commissioning of members of the Communist Party -- Worker, March 18, 1945, pages 1-3, magazine

(6) Schappes Defense Committee -- signer of open letter to Governor Dewey to pardon Morris U. Schappes -- New York Times, October 9, 1944, page 12

(7) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- member of board of directors -- letterhead, July 1954

(8) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- member of board of directors -- letterhead, April 1955

(9) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- sponsor of southwestern regional conference on integration -- folder, May 17, 1955

(10) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- signer of petition to Senator Hennings -- letterhead, November 7, 1955

September 11, 1957

CHARLES S. JOHNSON
President, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee

- (1) American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born -- sponsor of fourth annual conference -- letterhead, March 2-3, 1940
- (2) American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born -- sponsor -- program of dinner, April 17, 1943
- (3) Council on African Affairs -- endorser of program -- New Africa, October 1945
- (4) International Labor Defense -- sent greetings to national conference -- Equal Justice, July 1939, pages 2-5
- (5) Nation Associates -- sponsor of dinner-forum -- program, May 25, 1952
- (6) National Council of American-Soviet Friendship -- sponsor of committee on education -- bulletin, June 1945
- (7) National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions -- sponsor of Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace -- program, March 24-27, 1949
- (8) National Federation for Constitutional Liberties -- signer of statement opposing renewal of the Dies Committee -- pamphlet, January 1943
- (9) National Share-Croppers Fund -- national vice chairman -- California Report, 1948, page 334
- (10) Southern Conference Educational Fund -- sponsor of first southwide conference on discrimination in higher education -- program, April 8, 1950
- (11) Southern Conference for Human Welfare -- speaker at conference; member of southern council -- program, November 20-23, 1938
- (12) Southern Conference for Human Welfare -- sponsor -- program and call, April 14-16, 1940
- (13) Southern Conference for Human Welfare -- member of Nashville committee; consultant -- official report, 1942
- (14) U. S. Arrangements Committee, World Youth Conference -- sponsor -- letterhead, July 24, 1945

HENRY HITT CRANE

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Source</u>
American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom	Signer of letter in defense of Rugg textbooks	Letter, May 26, 1940
American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born	Sponsor	Letterhead, Sept. 11, 1941
American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born	Signer of birthday greeting to Sabath	<u>Lamp</u> , May 1946, p. 3
American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born	Signer of letter to Truman urging halting deportation of Communists	<u>Worker</u> , April 1, 1951, p. 4
American Peace Crusade	Initiator of referendum	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Aug. 22, 1952, p. 3
American Welcoming Committee for World Peace Delegation	Signer of protest against refusal of visas to Communist delegates	Press Release, March 2, 1950
Amnesty Appeal on Behalf of Communist Party Leaders	Signer	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Dec. 10, 1952, p. 4
Amnesty Appeal for Carl Winter	Sponsor	<u>Daily Worker</u> , July 2, 1953, p. 8
Civil Rights Institute	Speaker and sponsor	Program, Dec. 1, 1939
Conference on Peaceful Alternatives to the Atlantic Pact	Signer of open letter to Congress	Letter, Aug. 21, 1949
Detroit Committee for Justice in the Rosenberg Case	Signer of message urging clemency	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Dec. 26, 1952, p. 6
W. E. B. DuBois Testimonial Sponsor-ing Committee	Sponsor	Program, Febr. 23, 1951
Emergency Civil Liberties Committee	Sponsor	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Jan. 20, 1953, p. 2

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Source</u>
Methodist Federation for Social Action	Signer of statement defending MFSA after Kansas City meeting	Leaflet, December 27-29, 1947
Methodist Federation for Social Action	Name on ballot of	<u>Social Questions Bulletin</u> , Febr.-March 1949
Methodist Federation for Social Action	Name on ballot of	Mimeographed ballot, Sept. 2, 1953
Michigan Peace Ballot Committee	Sponsor	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Sept. 24, 1952, p. 2
Mid-Century Conference for Peace	Speaker	<u>Daily Worker</u> , May 31, 1950, p. 9
Mid-Century Conference for Peace	Sponsor	Call, May 29-30, 1950
National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act	Sponsor	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Dec. 27, 1950, p. 9
National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act	Signer of statement for	Open Letter, Jan. 19, 1951
National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act	Signer	<u>Daily Worker</u> , July 9, 1952, p. 3
National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act	Signer of open letter to Truman urging Lehman bill as substitute for Walter-McCarran Act	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Nov. 3 1953, p. 8
National Committee to Repeal the McCarran Act	Signer of open letter to Senator Henning	Letter, Nov. 14, 1955
National Committee to Win Amnesty for the Smith Act Victims	Signer	Official Folder, May 22, 1953
National Emergency Conference for Democratic Rights	Signer of statement for	Folder, "A Warning to America," 1940

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Source</u>
National Federation for Constitutional Liberties	Signer of statement opposing renewal of the Dies Committee	Pamphlet, Jan. 1943
National Peace Referendum	Sponsor	Press Release, Aug. 1952
Religious Freedom Committee	Member of executive committee	Letterhead, July 1954
Report on Militarization of America	Signer	Michigan Herald, Febr. 1, 1948, p. 8
Rosenberg Clemency Appeal	Supporter	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Jan. 9, 1953, p. 6
Rosenberg Clemency Appeal	Signer	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Jan. 18, 1953, p. 2
Statement of Christian Leaders Criticizing Atlantic Pact	Signer	Press Release, April 15, 1949
Statement Defending Ballot Rights of Communists	Signer	<u>Worker</u> , Oct. 20, 1940, p. 2
Statement Endorsing Publication and Distribution of the Report of Seven Clergymen Who Visited Yugoslavia	Sponsor and signer	Press Release, Oct. 31, 1947
Telegram Urging Truman to Veto the Internal Security Act of 1950	Signer	<u>Daily Worker</u> , Sept. 21, 1950, p. 4
Christmas Amnesty Plea for Communists Convicted Under the Smith Act	Signer of petition to President Eisenhower	New York Times, Dec. 21, 1955, p. 20

1. Pamphlet entitled, COMMUNISM AND THE NAACP. (Rec. 7-16-58)

80-371-1A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 17 1968	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

Date Received 7-16-59

From CI Office
(Name of contributor)

(Address of contributor)

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes
No

Description

Completed entitled, "Communism and the NAACP
(Vol. 2)

File No. 80-371 (a)

Communism

and the

NAAACP

Vol. 2

BULKY EXHIBIT - INVENTORY OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED AS EVIDENCE

Bufile: Little Rock Field Division
6-26-58 Date

Title and Character of Case: Circuit Riders
Cincinnati, Ohio

Date Property Acquired: 5-8-58

Source From Which Property Acquired: Cincinnati Division

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: Bulky Exhibit Shelf

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: For Research Purposes

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same:

1. "A Compilation of Public Records, 614, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Clergymen"
2. "A Compilation of Public Records, 20.5%, 1441 Protestant Episcopal Rectors."

Cincinnati Field Division

*Destroyed
per SAC, 5-19-66*

80-371-1B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 23 1968	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

Field File #: 80-371

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Little Rock

DATE: February 5, 1958

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT:

MEYER G. LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

For your information the Bureau has confidentially learned
from [redacted]

b7D

a memorandum setting forth the subversive background of Lee Lorch who,
as you know, is a professor at the Philander Smith College. [redacted]

[redacted] Lorch is being harbored by the President of the Philander Smith
College.

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As indicated, this is being furnished strictly for your information and you should make sure the Bureau is not drawn into any controversy that the dissemination of this document might cause.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Little Rock

DATE: February 25, 1958

JMK
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MEYER G. LOWMAN
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
 CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
 NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 18 EAST FOURTH STREET
 CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

Rebulet February 5, 1958, in the above-captioned matter,

[redacted] b7D
 a memorandum setting forth the alleged subversive background of Lee Lorch to a cross section of Methodists and also Baptists in the State of Arkansas.

[redacted] some material concerning H. S. Ashmore of the Arkansas Gazette, who [redacted] feels has not been factual in his reporting concerning the Little Rock situation and who [redacted] claims has aided in financing various questionable groups such as the Southern Regional Council which was given a grant by the Fund for the Republic, Mr. Ashmore being on the Board of Directors of the latter organization.

This is being supplied for your information and guidance.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB 26 1958	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	
[Redacted]	

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Jack W. Galbraith
Owner and Publisher

R. Dodie Evans
Editor

THE GRAVETTE NEWS HERALD

April 19, 1958

Gravette, Arkansas

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director of the FBI
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

It was recently called to the attention of our editorial desk that members of the faculty of the Philander Smith college at Little Rock, were (or were suspected of being) members of the Communist party, or were communist sympathizers.

This information was dispatched (apparently to every paper in the state) by a group known as "The Circuit Riders." Not knowing anything of the activities or reliability of this group, we are hoping you will be able to supply us with some concrete information which can be used as editorial material.

Being a member of the Methodist church, I am constantly alarmed by actions taken by some of the hierarchy of the church. This college is supported or sponsored by the church, and if there is irregularity, it should be called to the attention of everyone.

I am constantly dismayed at the attitude of indifference of the general public toward the efforts of your department and others to warn of communistic activities. Our editorial policy here is quite frank in speaking out against groups which we believe are tainted with the communistic doctrine or principle.

I hope you will be able to send us information concerning this college in Little Rock; and the members of its faculty. The persons mentioned in the articles included a Mr. and Mrs. Lorch, and the president whose name I can't recall.

Any information you can supply concerning this institution will be passed along to our people. If you are not in a position to divulge any information at this time, could we be put in line with such information when it becomes available. Any other information which you feel should be brought to the attention of our readers will be greatly appreciated.

It is going to take a lot of old-fashioned hard American work to win this fight, if it's to be won at all. We want to do our part.

Sincerely,

/s/ R. Dodie Evans
Editor Dodie Evans

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April 29, 1958

Mr. R. Dodie Evans
Editor
The Gravette News Herald
Gravette, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Evans:

Your letter dated April 19, 1958, with its enclosure, has been received, and the motive which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

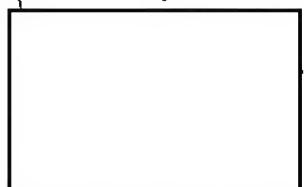
While I would like to be of assistance to you in connection with your inquiries, information in the files of the FBI is maintained as confidential and available for official use only in accordance with a regulation of the Department of Justice. Furthermore, I must advise that the FBI, as a fact-gathering agency, does not issue evaluations or clearances of organizations, individuals or publications. I sincerely regret, therefore, that it will not be possible to furnish you with any information which may be used as editorial material or otherwise.

I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will draw no inference because of my inability to be of assistance that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

I can advise you, however, that one of the individuals mentioned in your communication may be identical with an individual subpoenaed to testify in public hearings of the Internal Security Subcommittee of the United States Senate held in Memphis, Tennessee, October 28 and 29, 1957. These

② - Little Rock (Enclosures - 2)

(SEE NOTE TO SAC ON PAGE TWO)



Mr. R. Dodie Evans

hearings received considerable publicity in newspapers of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee. It is suggested, therefore, that you may desire to communicate with these sources for additional information.

The free press of our Nation performs a real service by alerting the public to the dangers of communism and I feel that the American people owe it to themselves to remain constantly aware of this menace.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE TO SAC, LITTLE ROCK:

Enclosed are two copies of correspondent's letter. He enclosed with his letter a copy of the September 26, 1957, issue of his newspaper "The Gravette News Herald." Nothing was noted in this newspaper which appeared to be pertinent to his inquiries in his letter. Bufiles contain no identifiable information concerning the correspondent or his newspaper.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorch, mentioned by correspondent, are undoubtedly identical with Lee Alexander Lorch, currently employed as a professor of mathematics, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas, and his wife, Grace Lonergan Lorch. These individuals are subjects of Little Rock files 100-3177 and 100-3178, respectively.

Bufiles reflect no derogatory information of a subversive nature concerning Philander Smith College, a Negro college at Little Rock. From 1937 to 1939, various Bureau representatives accepted invitations to address the student body and faculty of the college. No information is available in Bufiles as to the identity of present faculty members of the college.

Circuit Riders, Incorporated, is an organization made up of laymen of the Methodist Church whose objective is to combat communism in the church.

b7D

Mr. R. Dodie Evans

NOTE TO SAC, LITTLE ROCK CONTINUED:

[Redacted] In February, 1958, Circuit Riders, Incorporated, issued some material alleging Communist Party affiliation on the part of Lorch and other individuals connected with the Philander Smith College. A copy of this material was made available to the Little Rock Office by Cincinnati letter to the Bureau dated February 4, 1958, captioned "Circuit Riders, Incorporated."

The above is furnished for your information.

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

To: SAC, Little Rock

Date: May 6, 1958

From: SAC, Cincinnati

Subject: CIRCUIT RIDERS
Cincinnati, Ohio

M. G. LOWMAN, who is well known to the Bureau. [redacted]

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[redacted] is the guiding influence of the Circuit Riders, Cincinnati, Ohio. Circuit Riders is a Methodist lay organization, financed by a number of prominent Americans, mostly of the Methodist faith, and their work is to expose Communist influences in religious organizations.

Each field office is being furnished:

"A Compilation of Public Records, 614, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Clergymen," and

"A Compilation of Public Records, 20.5%, 1411 Protestant Episcopal Rectors."

These documents were made available by LOWMAN. More can be obtained, if needed, for official business purposes.

Two copies of each document are being sent to SAC, New York.

Enclosure s - 2

RDM:LM

May 6, 1958
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1958-5
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INDEXED
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FILED
MAY 8 1958
FBI - CINCINNATI
C. J. [Signature]
- 6 -

Date: July 11, 1958

ROUTING SLIP

To:

SAC, Little Rock

From:

SAC, CINCINNATI

Subject: "COMMUNISM and the NAACP"
Volume 2

Attached document was published by the Georgia Commission on Education, Atlanta, Georgia. It was furnished to the Cincinnati Office by Mr. M. G. LOWMAN, Circuit Riders, Cincinnati, Ohio. Circuit Riders is a Methodist lay organization devoted to exposing Communism and the organization, through LOWMAN, is known to S.O.G. as cooperative.

EDM:pat

81-3711-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED 444	FILED 77

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Director, FBI
Attention: Mr. G. A. Nease

8/14/58

SAC, Cincinnati

ORVAL FAUBUS
GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS

[redacted] who is well known to Mr. NEASE
at the Bureau, confidentially advises concerning Governor
FAUBUS of Arkansas as follows:

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1. Shortly after he gets situated in his third
term, Governor FAUBUS will hold hearings on Communist attempts
to infiltrate NAACP and other groups in order to foment unrest
in race relations. [redacted]

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2. FAUBUS will do everything possible to mend his
relations with the FBI during the coming months and [redacted]
will keep the Bureau advised of the proposed actions of FAUBUS
in pertinent matters.

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2 - Bureau
1 - Little Rock (PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL)
1 - Cincinnati

EDM:pat
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Little Rock

DATE: September 4, 1958

J.W.
FROM : Director, FBISUBJECT: MYERS G. LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI 2, Ohio

The above individual is in contact with Bureau Headquarters from time to time concerning his activities in combating subversion, particularly among religious groups, through the Circuit Riders Association.

Mr. Lowman has now advised that he will participate, by furnishing information and assistance, in the hearings the State Legislative Committee will hold concerning the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Arkansas sometime in October.

Mr. Lowman, from time to time, has contacted various offices of the Bureau during his travels. In the event he should contact your office at any time, he should be treated courteously but circumspectly and should be furnished no information.

80-111-9
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE

DATE: 9/8/58

FROM : J. J. CASPER, SAC

SUBJECT: MYERS G. LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

This is to record that SA [redacted] was contacted at approximately 1:00 PM today by Attorney General BRUCE BENNETT for the State of Arkansas.

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BENNETT asked Agent [redacted] if he knew anything about LOWMAN. He asked Agent [redacted] to check and see what he had and then to give him a call and he would come over to the Little Rock Office. Agent [redacted] gave BRUCE BENNETT a noncommittal answer inasmuch as the person to whom BENNETT was referring was unknown to Agent [redacted]

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Thereafter, upon consulting with the SAC, the Bureau was contacted, and Inspector C. D. DeLoach was contacted for advice as to what the Attorney General should be told. Mr. DeLoach stated the Attorney General should be told that we have never investigated Mr. Lowman and therefore we cannot be of any assistance. Mr. DeLoach stated that he was sure we had not investigated Mr. Lowman and that he would double-check it. I told Mr. DeLoach that there was no hurry in our reply to the Attorney General and that we would not make any reply until tomorrow.

Mr. DeLoach asked the SAC as to what relations we had with the Attorney General, whereupon he was told they were as good as they could be with anybody in the state government at this time, but that anything we told him he would use, and it would probably get back to Lowman.

Agent [redacted] was requested to inform the Attorney General as indicated above on September 9th instant.

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FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

(initials)

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC (80-371)

DATE: 9/9/58

FROM : SA [redacted]

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SUBJECT: MEYERS G. LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
18 East 4th Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Re SAC memo 9/8/58 instructing captioned matter be discussed with Arkansas Attorney General BRUCE BENNETT as a result of inquiry by BENNETT on 9/8/58 concerning ---- LOWMAN.

On 9/9/58 writer telephonically contacted Mr. BENNETT to arrange appointment in connection with above. Such contact was made at 10:15 AM. At this time Mr. BENNETT advised that he was departing Little Rock for several days - that instant matter was not urgent as far as he is concerned and that he would contact writer upon his return to Little Rock.

Writer will pursue this matter further with Mr. BENNETT.

80-371-11

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SEP 10 1958	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE (80-371)

DATE: 9/16/58

FROM : J. J. CASPER, SAC

SUBJECT: MEYERS G. LOWMAN
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
 CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
 18 EAST FOURTH STREET
 CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

This is to record that the SAC had lunch with Attorney General BRUCE BENNETT on September 16 at which time Mr. BENNETT was advised in reference to his request of Agent [redacted] that the FBI had never investigated this individual, and therefore we could not be of assistance. BENNETT indicated that he knew of LOWMAN's background and that LOWMAN had cooperated with the FBI. No confirmation was given to BENNETT concerning this remark, and no further discussion was had concerning the matter.

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SEP 16 1958	

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Second Presbyterian Church

THIRD, AND GAINES STREETS

Little Rock, Arkansas



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September 23, 1948

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to know if you have any information that would justify Governor Faubus of Arkansas, or any other person, in saying that Presbyterian clergymen have been "brain washed by left-wingers and Communists", and that some are in fact "left-wingers and Communists".

Rev. Carl McIntire, pastor of the Collingswood Bible Presbyterian Church, New Jersey, and Circuit Riders, Inc., 18 East 4th Street, Cincinnati, 2, Ohio, have been cited as authorities for the statement. An advertisement in the Arkansas Democrat for Sunday, September 21, asked readers to secure a copy of the book entitled "Compilation of Public Records, Presbyterian Church USA Clergymen", published by Circuit Riders, Inc., 18 East 4th St., Cincinnati, Ohio. For your information I am sending you a copy of the advertisement.

Being a Presbyterian myself, and knowing Presbyterians all over the world, I know the statement made by Governor Faubus is a slander. We here in Arkansas are seeking authoritative information in answer to the slander. In your official capacity you feel that you can help us in any way, we would greatly appreciate it.

Before I conclude this letter let me congratulate you upon your recent volume "Masters of Deceit". I have read this volume with great profit and enthusiasm. You have done a magnificent job and rendered a significant public service in the publication of this book.

With very kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours and sincerely,

P.S. Your Book inspired me to preach my Independence Day Sermon on this subject on July 6th

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SHOULD GOV. FAUBUS Apologize To The Presbyterians?

Governor Faubus has said the Communists and Left Wingers have done a good job of brainwashing among the Presbyterians. Presbyterian leaders here have vigorously denied Communist infiltration of their denomination.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

Circuit Riders, Inc., is one of America's most reputable statistical organizations. Based upon thorough research it furnishes background information on persons having Communist or Subversive affiliations.

This research organization has published a brochure under date of March, 1958, entitled, "A Compilation of Public Records." This brochure gives documented information concerning a LARGE NUMBER of Presbyterian Ministers in the United States who have two or more affiliations with pro-Communist Organizations.

It also gives the name of a well known Presbyterian Theological Seminary whose former president is numbered among those Presbyterian Clergymen having Communist affiliations. Complete information concerning these Presbyterian Ministers, as to the number of them in the United States, the number and name of the Communist organizations each one has been affiliated with and the date and source of the information is available and can be furnished to anyone desiring it.

Also the name of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the name of its former president and the number of Communist or Subversive organizations he has been affiliated with can be furnished.

Those desiring this information may write Circuit Riders, Inc., 18 East 4th St., Cincinnati, Ohio, and ask for a copy of "Compilation of Public Records, Presbyterian Church U.S. A. Clergymen." Price per copy \$2.00.

... the Communists have been quietly working in our college. Through professors and Ivy Tower educators, they have, in a subtle way, conditioned the minds of ministerial students that ONE WORLDISM, ONE RACE-ISM (or mixing of the races) and government control of the personal lives of the individual holds the solution to the World's miseries. Anyone speaking out against this condition of things has been a voice crying in the wilderness. Now the awful harvest is upon us.

We should pray that our beloved Presbyterian denomination will be saved by a purge of its Communist leadership.

Mrs. H. G. Anderson

Life Long Presbyterian
—Advertisement

September 30, 1958

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b7C

[REDACTED]
Second Presbyterian Church
Third and Gaines Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear [REDACTED]

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b7C

Your letter of September 23, 1958, with enclosure, has been received, and your interest in writing is appreciated.

While I can understand your concern relative to the charges made against Presbyterian clergymen, I regret that as a matter of policy it is not possible for me to offer the assistance you suggested. Over the years, I have refrained from injecting my name or the FBI into issues of that nature, and I feel certain you can understand my position in this regard.

80-371-14
Thank you for your very favorable comments on "Masters of Deceit" and for your kind sentiments regarding my administration of the activities of the FBI.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

[REDACTED]

SEARCHED <i>m</i>	INDEXED <i>A</i>
SERIALIZED <i>m</i>	FILED <i>A</i>
OCT - 1 1958	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

b6
b7C

1 - Little Rock - Enclosures (2) [REDACTED]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Little Rock

DATE: December 10, 1958

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT:

In the event you are not already aware of the situation, it has come to the Bureau's attention that the Special Legislative Committee of the Arkansas State Legislature will hold hearings in Little Rock this coming week and supposedly, they will delve into the activities of the Southern Regional Council, the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. It is understood that Myers G. Lowman, Executive Secretary of the Circuit Riders, Inc., will act in the background supplying most of the raw material and the witnesses for the hearings. You are, of course, aware of the connection Daisy Bates and her husband have with these groups.

It is further understood that among the witnesses will be J. B. Matthews, Manning Johnson and perhaps former SAC Guy Banister.

You should be most circumspect in your dealings with any of these individuals in the event they should contact your office. The Bureau should be closely advised as to the progress of these hearings.

Rock Special
Bee advised by
forwarding all
pertinent clippings
over last several
months

11-15

DO NOT

LEAVE LETTER

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 11 1958	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

Director, FBI

December 11, 1958

SAC, Little Rock (80-371)

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE
INFORMATION CONCERNING



IS - C

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ReBulct to Little Rock dated 12/10/58 con-
cerning this matter.

This is to advise the Bureau that Attorney
General BRUCE BENNETT called on the SAC at three o'clock
on the afternoon of December 11, 1958, and advised that
he was interested in determinint whether one [redacted]

spelled by BENNETT [redacted]

was still in Russia and also he, BENNETT, was interested
in seeing a picture of [redacted] He identified this
individual as having left here several years ago and
having gone to Russia. He identified him further as
being born in Chicago, an American citizen, and that
the FBI had checked on him.

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b7C

BENNETT was advised, as he has been previously
advised, that the information contained in the files of
the FBI is ~~confidential~~ and cannot be made available to
him. He was advised that he was not to deduct from this
denial that we either had the information or did not have
the information he was seeking. BENNETT indicated in his
conversation that he wanted this information in connection
with the hearings which are to be had by the Arkansas
Legislative Council as referred to in the referenced
Bureau letter. He said he did not want anyone "locally"
to know that he had made this inquiry.

BENNETT stated the FBI ought to have one
of its men present during these hearings because he

b6
b7C

- Bureau
- Little Rock (80-371) (100-2321) (80-333) (Ark. Legislative Council)

JC/gm

6)

W

16

LR 80-371

felt that some significant information would come out. He also stated it would be televised over Local Channel 7. No indication was given to BENNETT that an FBI Agent would be present during the hearings, and it is not planned to have any Agent present at these hearings. Appropriate coverage will be maintained of the hearings and the Bureau kept advised through press and television coverage as well as available local sources.

It is quite obvious that BENNETT is referring to [redacted] whose name is carried in the sub-caption and who was carried in 1950 as a Key Figure in the Little Rock Division. As the Bureau will recall, this subject departed New York City on October 11, 1950, for the purpose of travel to Poland and possibly England and Austria for one year. Information was subsequently received that his address was in [redacted]. No information has come to this office's attention that he has returned to this country. [redacted]
[redacted]

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b7C

For further information contained in the Bureau's file relative to this individual, the Bureau's attention is called to [redacted]. It will be observed that while in Europe, [redacted] made a practice of mailing Communist literature to friends and acquaintances in Arkansas.

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b7C

It appears from the above that BENNETT, who could not even spell the individual's name and who did not have accurate information as to his birth, is proceeding in his usual fashion without basic factual information in order to build his political fences in Arkansas on the segregation issue.

The above is submitted to the Bureau for its information.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : FILE (80-371)

DATE: 12/16/58

FROM : J. J. CASPER, SAC

SUBJECT: MEYERS G. LOWMAN
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
 CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
 18 EAST FOURTH STREET
 CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

This will record that the SAC received a telephone call on the afternoon of December 15, 1958, from the captioned individual, who stated he was staying at the Alber Pike Hotel in Little Rock and indicated he would be out to see the SAC in the next couple of days.

Mr. LOWMAN was thanked for his call, and was advised that the SAC would be out of the office but that he should feel free to call at the office, pay us a visit, and see the ASAC, [redacted]

Following the telephone call from Mr. LOWMAN, the SAC received a long distance call from SAC ED MASON, of Cincinnati. Mr. MASON advised that LOWMAN had indicated to him that he was coming to Little Rock to "mastermind" the hearings to be held by the State Legislature on UnAmerican activities. According to Mr. MASON, LOWMAN indicated he would walk out if these politicians began to give out press releases. LOWMAN indicated to MASON that he would call the SAC at Little Rock personally but that he would stay away from our office. According to MASON, former SAC GUY BANNISTER will be called upon to testify, and BANNISTER will testify concerning the smear campaign currently being engaged in by the Communists and radical Liberals against the Bureau.

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80-371-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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DEC 16 1958	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

80-371
 JJC/rp
 (1)

December 16, 1958

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (80-382)
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Little Rock letter to Bureau 12/11/58.

On 12/16/58 public hearings of the Arkansas Legislative Council on Communist Activities in the State of Arkansas commenced. BRUCE BENNETT, Attorney General of the State of Arkansas, gave a brief run-down on the aims and purposes of the hearings, which is to show that racial agitation in the Southern United States was a program adopted by Russia in 1930 and which is presently being Communistically inspired. BENNETT said that certain individuals in Arkansas have been willing or unwilling tools of subversion. He said there can be but one conclusion, "that conclusion is that subversion is present".

The first witness was J. L. SHAVER, an attorney from Wynne, Arkansas, and former State Representative, Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Secretary to Governors HOMER ADKINS and ORVAL FAUBUS, and presently is a member of the State Sovereignty Commission. SHAVER said he was a member of a committee which investigated Communist activities at Commonwealth College, Mena, Arkansas, in 1935. SHAVER enumerated the witnesses called in the 1935 hearing and quoted from the official transcript of these hearings. He also furnished information from the record on the finances, curriculum, teacher qualifications, belief or lack of belief in a supreme being, and various forms of Government taught at Commonwealth College.

3 - Bureau
④ - Little Rock
(① - 80-371)
(1 - 100-2321)
(1 - 80-362)
(1 - 80-382)

TJN:re
(7) re

80-371-18

AIRTEL

LR 60-382

SHAVER also testified from the record of activities in Arkansas of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the Workingman's Union of the World, and the connection of the students and teachers of Commonwealth College with these unions.

On two or three occasions, SHAVER pointed out that the hearings in 1935 did not show that all students were Communists or atheists.

SHAVER said the manuscript from which he was reading had been prepared in the office of Attorney General BENNETT and SHAVER deviated from this script when pointing out that the hearings in 1935 did not show that all students were Communists or atheists. Only two Arkansans were in attendance at Commonwealth College when the 1935 inquiry was conducted (Governor FAUBUS was not mentioned).

Prior to SHAVER's testimony, BENNETT said that the following organizations would be mentioned during the course of the hearings:

Southern Conference on Human Welfare
The Southern Conference Educational Fund
The Southern Regional Council
The Arkansas Council on Human Relations
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
The Highlander Folk School
The National Negro Congress
The African Blood Brotherhood
The American Negro Labor Congress
The Southern Youth Congress

When the hearings were resumed on the afternoon of 12/16/58, Channel 7 TV station experienced technical difficulties and the testimony of Secretary of State C. G. "CRIP" HALL and GUY WILLIAMS, Pulaski County Chancellor, were

AIRTEL

LR 80-382

not carried by this TV station.

HERBY BIRD, K V L C Radio, summed up HALL's testimony by saying that HALL linked DAISY BATES, head of the NAACP in Arkansas, and her husband, L. C. BATES, with HENRY WALLACE, Progressive Party candidate for President of the United States in 1948. HALL said that WALLACE refused to sign a non-Communist affidavit and, according to BIRD, HALL therefore would not certify WALLACE as a candidate in the election.

According to K V L C radio, Chancellor GUY WILLIAMS identified LEONARD FARMER as being a member of the Communist Party in Arkansas. WILLIAMS gained his knowledge in view of the fact he heard a divorce trial involving FARMER in which FARMER's wife furnished testimony, and, according to WILLIAMS, some documentary evidence that FARMER was a member of the Communist Party.

Congressman OREN HARRIS, Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Arkansas, was the next witness and he furnished information concerning the formation of the Dies Committee and the opposition it has met from Communist sympathizers. He furnished the 1/2/57 list of organizations which have been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. He also furnished the 1/1/55 list of organizations that have been cited by the Attorney General of the United States. In addition to the above, HARRIS furnished abstracts of information obtained from the official files of the House of Representatives, House Committee on Un-American Activities, concerning numerous individuals. At the conclusion of the enumeration of the individuals, Attorney General BENNETT said that the above persons would be connected with people and organizations operating in Arkansas. Congressman HARRIS criticized the Supreme Court decision that threw out the various State Sedition Laws.

The next witness was ROBERT E. DILES, who identified himself as an attorney and presently a referee for the

AIRTEL

LR 80-382

Workman's Compensation Committee. DILES related that he had attended Little Rock Junior College in 1947 with LADISLAV PUSHKAROKI. He said that PUSHKAROKI showed him copies of the "Daily Worker" and other Communist publications. DILES then identified a photograph which had in the group the following individuals:

- (1) LEONARD FARMER
- (2) L. C. BATES (DILES was unable to identify BATES)
- (3) LADISLAV PUSHKAROKI
- (4) HENRY WALLACE
- (5) DAISY BATES

BENNETT announced the hearings would resume at 9:30 AM, 12/17/58.

P.

CASPER

12/17/58

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL, REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (80-382)
RE: SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE,
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Little Rock airtel to Bureau, 12/16/58.

The Arkansas Gazette, a Little Rock daily newspaper, on December 17, 1958, reported that ROBERT E. DILES, in testifying before the Legislative Committee, stated "He said he had been told by the FBI that PUSHKARSKY had gone to Poland as a Communist Party member". The Arkansas Gazette article is enclosed.

The Little Rock Division made a tape recording of DILES' testimony and it is quoted verbatim for the information of the Bureau as follows:

"MR. BENNETT: Mr. DILES, do you know the whereabouts of LADDIE PUSHKARSKY at this time?

"MR. DILES: From my own knowledge I do not know where Mr. PUSHKARSKY is. Two or three years ago an agent of one of our Federal agencies questioned me in regard to LADISLAV PUSHKARSKY and as a result of that interview I was informed that he was -- had gone to Poland as a member of the Communist Party."

3 - Bureau (AIR MAIL, REGISTERED) (Encl. 1)

4 - Little Rock (80-382) (80-371) (100-2321) (80-362)

TJN/ds

(7)

(S)

80-371-19

LR 80-382

Little Rock file [redacted] concerning [redacted] has been reviewed and there is no indication that DILES was ever interviewed by agents of this office.

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[redacted]
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In view of the foregoing, it would appear that DILES, in his testimony on December 16, 1958, was possibly referring to a representative of ONI.

CASPER

12/19/58

XXX

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (80-371)
SUBJECT: MEYERS G. LOWMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
18 EAST FOURTH STREET
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

This is to advise the Bureau that on the evening
of December 18, 1958, [redacted]

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[redacted] shortly thereafter appeared at the Little Rock
Office and turned over to the ASAC and SA [redacted]

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b7D

[redacted] He made no requests and did not inquire
into the extent of this office's interest in the hearings.

NOTE: ASAC telephonically advised Inspector J. J. McGUIRE
at 5:45 PM, on 12/18/58, of [redacted]

b7D

[redacted] would
be accepted. McGUIRE concurred in this action
consistent with prior Bureau instructions concerning
[redacted]

ECW

ECW/rp
(4)

20

December 17, 1958

PLAIN TEXT

A I R T E L

AIR MAIL REGISTERED

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, Little Rock (80-382)

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Little Rock airtel, 12/16/58.

On 12/17/58, hearings were resumed and BRUCE BENNETT, Attorney General, was sworn in and testified that Dr. VERNON McDANIEL of Tuskegee University received \$6,000 from THURGOOD MARSHALL of the NAACP to conduct a survey of 20 Arkansas towns to determine their attitude toward integration. BENNETT said he would also show that the Southern Regional Council (SRC) of Atlanta, Georgia, was affiliated with the Arkansas Council on Human Relations. BENNETT then went into a discussion on CLARENCE LAWS, Field Secretary of the NAACP, and said LAWS was discharged from the U. S. Army Reserve as a Major "for security reasons in the interests of national security". BENNETT also cited an article in the ARKANSAS GAZETTE which reflected LAWS was going to Van Buren, Arkansas, in connection with school strife in that town.

J. B. MATTHEWS of New York City was the next witness, and he went into great detail on the SRC, Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW), and the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF). He said the SCHW was the predecessor of the SCEF and these groups had the same aims and purposes. MATTHEWS related that the

- 3 - Bureau (AMR)
- 3 - Little Rock
 - (1 - 80-382)
 - (1 - 80-371)
 - (1 - 44-341)
 - (1 - 80-362)
 - (1 - 100-195)
 - (1 - 100-2093)

TJN; WGJ/mvw

(9)

80-371-21

LR 80-382

SCHW was the first major thrust made by the Communist Party (CP) to penetrate the south. He said the group was organized with the blessings of FRANKLIN D. and ELEANOR ROOSEVELT. He also said that 40 leading officials of the SCEF had filed a brief as friends of the court in defense of the CP, which was filed in 1955 before the U.S. Supreme Court. He said the SCEF serves as a bridge between the CP and misguided southern liberals. He also testified that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC), SRC, and SCEF were related mainly through the leaders of these groups. He mentioned DAISY BATES as being on the Board of Directors of the SRC and affiliated with the SCEF. MATTHEWS said M. LAFAYETTE HARRIS, President of Philander - Smith Negro College in Little Rock, was on the Board of Directors of the SRC and SCEF. He said HARRY ASHMORE, Executive Editor, ARKANSAS GAZETTE, a Little Rock daily newspaper, was on the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Republic. He also related that L. C. BATES was on the Board of Directors of the SCEF.

MATTHEWS testified that the SRC receives funds from the Fund for the Republic and the Arkansas Council on Human Relations receives funds from the SRC. The objectives of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, according to MATTHEWS, is to promote the line of activity promoted by the Communist apparatus.

It is to be noted MATTHEWS in his testimony did not differentiate between when he was testifying from public records or when he was voicing his own opinions.

He also mentioned GRACE and LEE LORCH and their activities at Fisk University, in New England, in New York City, and in Little Rock. He enumerated 51 Negro colleges in the south which had representatives in the SCEF. He said 38 presidents of these institutions were included and the 51 institutions represented 70 per cent of the total Negro colleges in the south.

MATTHEWS also enumerated 94 southern white colleges penetrated by the SCEF. He said this did not indicate these

LR 80-382

institutions were Communist controlled or that the individuals were Communists and said in most instances they were unwitting dupes.

MATTHEWS made the statement that every major act of violence in the South since the desegregation decision in 1954 was engineered by the SCEF. No facts or incidents were cited by MATTHEWS to substantiate this statement.

MATTHEWS listed the following Arkansas colleges and individuals connected with the SCEF:

Philander - Smith College, Little Rock, W. LAFAYETTE HARRIS, President.

Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, T. W. COLLINS, President.

Arkansas State AM & N, Pine Bluff, HORACE ADAMS, President.

(Above are the three Negro colleges.)

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, ALBERT HOWARD CARTER and FRANS ADLER.

College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, JOHN R. BROSS, MARTHA G. BOSWELL, H. W. KLAEPFER, BUCKLEY RUED.

A film taken September 2, 1957, at Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, was shown which depicted Negroes and whites socializing. BENNETT and MATTHEWS identified some of the individuals in the film by name.

MATTHEWS related that E. FRANKLIN FRASIER who he said was associated with one of the above groups was listed by the U.S. Supreme Court as one of the authorities used for their decision on desegregation in 1954.

MATTHEWS also related it was his observation that the NAACP is heavily infiltrated by the CP to the extent the NAACP is

LR 80-382

a more effective agency for the Communist line than some of the Communist front groups. He said the CP has had more success with the intellectual Negroes than with the rank and file. The number one project of the CP is work among the Negroes in the south, creating turmoil in the south and fostering phony peace movements.

MATTHEWS said LUCY BATES (apparently referring to L. C. or DAISY BATES as the 1953 edition of the Little Rock - North Little Rock City Directory lists the home address of L. C. and DAISY BATES at 1804 Bishop, Little Rock), 1804 Bishop Street, Little Rock, and M. LAFAYETTE HARRIS, Philander - Smith, were officers of the SNC who had other CP connections. During the course of his testimony, MATTHEWS related it was also the aim of the CP to undermine and ridicule Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER, the FBI, the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee. MATTHEWS also stated that Mr. HOOVER in his book, "Masters of Deceit", had said the Southern Negro Youth Congress was a Communist front group.

Attorney General BENNETT then took the stand and introduced a report of the investigation of Dr. McDANIEL of Tuskegee, Alabama. He also introduced a clipping from the Columbus, Ohio, CITIZEN dated 6/15/58, which contained a statement by DAISY BATES to the effect that the NAACP had spent \$50,000 on the present lawsuits in Little Rock.

BENNETT then introduced certified documents showing the incorporation of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations which was listed as a subsidiary of the SNC which was incorporated in Pulaski County Circuit Court, 6/24/55. The incorporators were listed as:

CHRISTOPHER C. MERCER, JR., attorney;
FRED K. DARRAGH, JR.;
Reverend C. C. WALKER; and
HARRY S. ASHMORE.

BENNETT then introduced an open letter to the House of Representatives protesting hearings of the HCUA of Atlanta, which

LR 80-352

set out the names of those individuals signing that letter. Among the signers were the following from Arkansas:

L. C. BATES, Little Rock;
T. P. JOHNSON;
J. F. KELLY;
Reverend T. O. MOJUNKINS, El Dorado; and
Reverend S. P. SPOTSWOOD, Warren.

BENNETT then introduced a letterhead of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations dated 10/7/53, which listed the officers as FRED K. DARRAGH, Chairman; Reverend C. C. WALKER, Vice-Chairman; HARRY S. ASHMORE, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. L. C. BATES, Board of Directors; M. W. (MIKE) WILLIS, Board of Directors; NAT R. CRISWALD, Executive Director; CHRISTOPHER C. MERCEZ, JR., Associate Director; and IDA M. KNOX, Secretary.

For the information of the Bureau, news articles concerning these hearings are being sent to the Bureau daily in Bureau file number 44-12294.

The hearings were recessed until 12/18/53.

P.

CASPER

December 10, 1958

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LITTLE ROCK (80-382)

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ARKANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 12/18/58, at 9:30 a.m., the public hearings of the Education Committee of the Arkansas Legislative Council reopened. BRUCE BENNETT, Attorney General of the State of Arkansas, gave a brief rundown on what had transpired the past two days.

MANNING JOHNSON, Negro, was the first witness called. He identified himself as a member of the Communist Party from 1930 until 1940 and enumerated the various positions he had held in the Party. He said that when he testified before the Legislative Council of the Louisiana State Legislature, some over-zealous newspaper men misquoted him. He denied saying that he was an Associate Director of Research with the Department of Justice during those hearings. He said the NAACP had secured a statement from the Department of Justice to the effect that JOHNSON was not an Associate Director of Research, and JOHNSON said the NAACP used the Department's statement to smear him.

JOHNSON then went into a discussion of Communist Party fronts and operations and objectives. He said his first association with the subversives was in 1930 when he joined the American Negro Labor Congress. He said he broke with the Party in 1940 and was contacted by the FBI to work for them and said he did so until joining the U. S. Navy in 1944.

3 - Bureau (AU)
6 - Little Rock
(1 - 80-382)
(1 - 80-371)
(1 - 44-341)
(1 - 80-362)
(1 - 100-105)
(1 - 100-2093)
TJN/ga
(9)

22

LR 30-382

JOHNSON went into great detail on the 1923 and 1930 resolutions made to the Communist International which laid the plans for establishing a "Black Republic" in the USA and the theory of "self determination." He also linked the CPUSA to Commonwealth College at Mona, Ark., and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in eastern Arkansas.

JOHNSON said the NAACP with Communist backing was responsible for racial strife in Little Rock today. He said the CP was using the NAACP and that the CP was using Little Rock as a test battle. JOHNSON related the NAACP was heavily infiltrated by Communists which was part of the CP plan back in the 1930s. He also said Little Rock and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, were designated as areas of concentration when he was a member of the CP. He praised Governor FAUBUS for his actions in the Little Rock situation and severely criticized the NAACP.

BRUCE BENNETT took the stand at the beginning of the afternoon session and testified that since January, 1955, the Arkansas Council on Human Relations had \$ 31,810.97. He said he had been unable to determine where the money came from or how it was spent. BENNETT also cited the testimony of MARTHA NICHOLS EDMISTON before the MCCA hearings on July 12, 13, 14, and August 8, 1950, concerning LEE LORCH. BENNETT again introduced letterhead stationery of the SCEF which listed Arkansas people as being on the Board of Directors.

HERBERT R. (HERBIE) BYRD and C. H. (RUSTY) RALSTON, local newsmen, were the next witnesses and told of their respective agencies receiving telephone calls two or three months ago from an individual who identified himself as NAT GRISWOLD, Head of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, and advising them of a meeting of the Council and suggesting they might want to cover it for a news story. They went to 1220 West Capitol, Little Rock, which houses the office of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, and were advised by GRISWOLD he had not called them. The newsmen said they tried

LR 80-382

to determine from GRISWOLD the type of organization it was and to interview him with negative results. They said it was a bi-racial meeting and GRISWOLD requested they contact him at a later date, at which time he would permit them to interview him. They said he has not called them to date.

It appears that DENNETT's purpose in introducing the testimony of the newsmen was to show that the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, although claiming to be a non-profit and benevolent organization, was holding secret meetings and the head of the organization refused to tell newsmen its purpose and functions.

MANNING JOHNSON again took the stand and furnished information concerning JAMES JACKSON and his role in the CP. He quoted excerpts from the book, "This Is My Husband," (written by JACKSON's wife), an article written by JACKSON in the 12/7/57 edition of "Political Affairs," and copies of the "Daily Worker." JOHNSON again blasted the NAACP and said they were marching the route set out for them by the CP. He said there was subversion in the local racial situation.

GUY BANNISTER, former SAC, FBI, was the next witness and gave a brief history of the CP and its operations in this country. During his testimony, BANNISTER said he was convinced there has been subversion in the racial strife in Little Rock. He also devoted time to discussing CYRUS EATON, "The Rights," "The New York Post," ELEANOR FERRY, and "The Nation" and their efforts to smear Mr. HOOVER and the FBI. He related that it was part of the Communist tactics to attempt to smear any individual or group that exposed them and said the people conducting the present hearings would undoubtedly also be smeared.

Most of Mr. BANNISTER's testimony was recorded by the Little Rock Division, and part of it is quoted as follows:

BENNETT: Was it amazing to you to find out that we have this organization in Arkansas, in Little Rock, which appeared to be well financed, that none of the reporters or anyone else knew anything in the world about, although it was organized for charitable and benevolent purposes under the name Arkansas Council on Human Relations?

BANNISTER: No sir, it wasn't surprising to me, and I wish I could remember where the printed supplies and printing paper for the Communist Party have been concealed in Little Rock, but I don't remember. I don't remember the address.

BENNETT: There used to be?

BANNISTER: When it used to be, yes.

BENNETT: How long ago?

BANNISTER: Several years ago. I don't remember now. I don't want to remember.

BENNETT: But it was?

BANNISTER: Yes, it definitely was.

BENNETT: Well, I don't want to explore into anything that you accumulated while you were at the Bureau, realizing---

BANNISTER: Well, actually I don't remember.

BENNETT: Well, I know that, realizing the limitations, but following that thought, is it your statement that there used to be Communist printing plates and supplies in Little Rock, Arkansas?

LR 80-382

BANNISTER: Well, we will limit it to a mimeograph machine and some paper, etc. They had that in several places. It was going to——preparing to go underground if if some organization or some group like the power or authority like the Supreme Court didn't bail them out.

BENNETT: But there was a Communist apparatus there at that time?

BANNISTER: Apparatuses are all over the nations.

BENNETT: In Little Rock?

BANNISTER: Yes, in Arkansas.

BENNETT: Yes, well, would you go ahead with your statement, Mr. BANNISTER.

Upon the completion of Mr. BANNISTER's testimony, the public hearings were terminated and the members of the Committee went into Executive session.

The Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock daily newspaper, on 12/19/63, reflected a possibility the hearings may be continued at a later date.

P.

CASPER

Director, FBI

2/5/59

SAC, Little Rock (80-382)

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
IS-C

Re Little Rock airtel to Bureau, 1/20/59, captioned as above, and Little Rock airtel to Bureau, 12/19/58, captioned "MEYERS G. LOWMAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC., 18 East 4th Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio".

There are being forwarded to the Bureau under
separate cover [redacted]

[redacted] which are described as follows:

b7D

1 - Package (Encls. 13) (REGISTERED MAIL)
5 - Bureau
2 - Little Rock (80-382) (80-371)

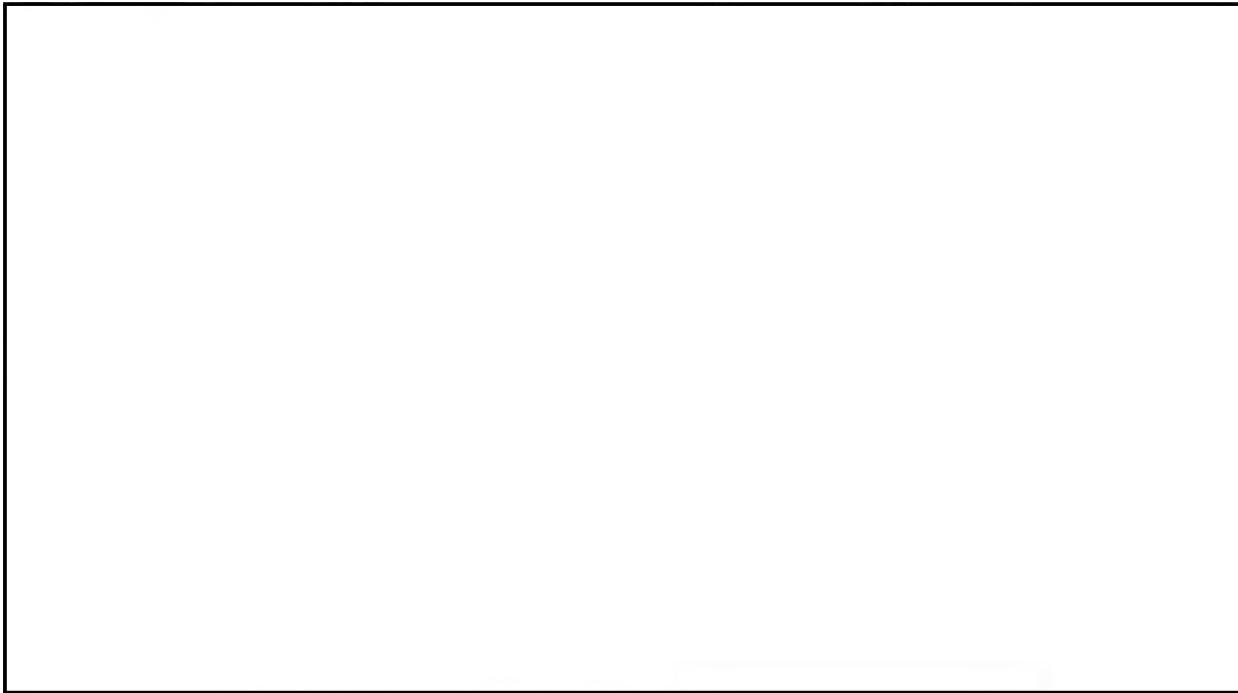
TJN/ds

(8)

(X)

80-371-23

LR 80-382



In addition to the above, [] on [] furnished other materials which are being retained by the Little Rock Office and the information contained in this material is believed to be already in the Bureau's possession.

b7D

OFFICE MEMORANDUM * UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC (80-382)

DATE: 2/9/59

FROM: SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
IS - C

b6
b7C

b7D

[redacted] has been forwarded to the Bureau and the remainder is set out below.

100-618

1. Communism in the NAACP.

(Pages 12 and 13 list JOHN BROWN WATSON, Arkansas State A, M & Normal College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; TENDY W. COGGS, Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock; and, M. LA FAYETTE HARRIS, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, as being formerly affiliated with the now defunct Southern Conference for Human Welfare.)

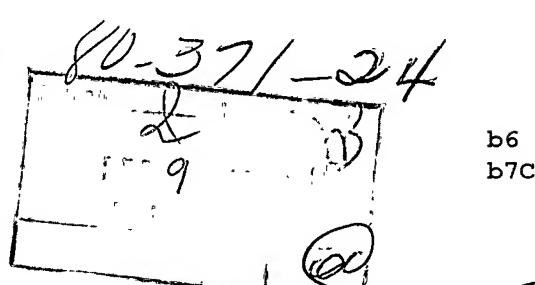
2. Communism in the NAACP, Vol. 2.

(Page 7 lists DAISY BATES as being associated with the Southern Conference Educational Fund. Page 91 lists STEPHEN GILL SPOTTSWOOD as member of the Board of Directors of the NAACP and cites his alleged subversive connections.)

1 - 80-382
1 - 80-371
1 - 100-171
1 - 100-195 (SCEF)
1 - 100-878 (Highlander Folk School)
1 - 100-2093 (ACHR)
1 - 100-2979 (HARRY S. ASHMORE)
1 - 100-3177 (LEE LORCH)
1 - 100-618 (COMMUNIST INFILTRATION, NAACP)
1 - 100-3324 (DAISY BATES)
1 - 100-3328 (L. CHRISTOPHER BATES)

1 - [redacted]

TJN [redacted]
(12) [redacted]



b6
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LR 80-382

100-3177

Mimeographed paper dated February 26, 1957, captioned LEE LORCH, which lists six alleged subversive connections for LORCH.

100-171

1. List of signers of motion and brief for leave to file brief as *amicus curiae* in a matter before the United States Supreme Court, October 1955 Term, in the case of the Communist Party, USA versus The Subversive Activities Control Board.

2. Thesis and Resolutions of the 7th National Convention of the Communist Party of USA, March 31 to April 4, 1930.

100-878

Newspaper titled HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, undated, which pertains to a meeting held at this school during the Labor Day weekend of 1957. This paper was published by the Georgia Commission on Education.

100-195

1. Photostat of news clipping from the Arkansas State Press of March 26, 1954, which lists signers of an open letter to the JENNER Senate Sub-Committee which was investigating the SCEF. Among the signers was L. C. BATES, Editor and Publisher, State Press, Little Rock, Arkansas.

2. Mimeographed sheet of paper dated September 11, 1957, captioned M. LA FAYETTE HARRIS, President, Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas, which lists 10 alleged subversive connections for HARRIS.

3. Photostat of a letter on stationery of the SCEF which announces a Southwestern Regional Conference on Integration to be held in Houston, Texas, on Tuesday, May 17, no year. Attached to this letter is a Photostat listing the officers and Board of Directors of the SCEF. Arkansans are shown as L. C. BATES, Dr. ALBERT H. CARTER, Dr. M. L. HARRIS, and MARCELLE CHANCELLOR LEATH.

4. Photostat of letter on stationery of the SCEF addressed "Dear Friend", signed JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI and dated July 20, 1957. This letter requests that an enclosed statement addressed to the Platform Committee of the 1956 National Convention of the Democratic and Republican Parties be signed. Statement calls for a strong stand on civil rights. This letter also reflects that among those who have already signed is M. LA FAYETTE HARRIS. Also attached to this letter was a list of the officers and Board of Directors and lists the Arkansas people named above.

5. Photostat of letter on stationery of SCEF dated July, 1954, which has attached Photostat of the officers and Board of Directors.

6. Photostat of a policy statement of the SCEF adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors, Atlanta, Georgia, June 12, 1954.

100-2093

1. May 15, 1957, edition of the American Legion publication "Firing Line". This is devoted almost entirely to the Southern Regional Council and its affiliates in the various southern states.

2. Brochure of the Southern Regional Council announcing a Southwestern Regional Conference on Integration would be held in Houston, Texas, on May 17, 1955. Some of the sponsors listed were ALBERT HOWARD CARTER, Professor of English, University of Arkansas; Mrs. W. F. COOLEY, Asst. Rel. Educ. Russellville, Arkansas; Mrs. EARL B. COTTON, Secretary, Christian Soc. Rel., So. Cent. Jur., W.D.C.S., Methodist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas; IRA D. CREWDSON, Executive Secretary, Arkansas Christian Missionary Society, Little Rock, Arkansas; KATHERINE DODD, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, Arkansas; WILLIAM E. GIBSON, Presbyterian Minister to Students, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; M. L. HARRIS, President, Philander Smith College; MARCELLE C. LEATH, writer, Camden, Arkansas; THOMAS O. MC JUNKINS, Baptist minister, El Dorado; A. L. PERKINS, Baptist minister, Little Rock, Arkansas; STEPHEN P. SPOTTSWOOD, minister; President, Walters Institute, Warren, Arkansas.

LR 80-382

3. Photostat of two-year report of the Fund for the Republic, Inc. dated May 31, 1958. This publication lists HARRY S. ASHMORE, Executive Editor, Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas, as a member of the Board of Directors. It also reflects the Arkansas Council on Human Relations in September and November, 1957, received \$2,500.00 from the Fund.

The above material is being filed in the 1-A section of the individual cases under which it is listed.

Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-106949)

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (100-11382)

SUBJECT: MYERS G. LOWMAN
CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.
CINCINNATI, OHIO

DATE: 4/26/62

Re Chicago letter to Bureau dated 4/20/62, captioned
"CIRCUIT RIDERS, INFORMATION CONCERNING."

LOWMAN advised SA THOMAS P. SCOLLARD on 4/26/62 that he mailed one copy of his latest book to each FBI Field Office. The book is entitled "A Compilation of Public Records of 658 Clergymen and Laymen Connected with the National Council of Churches."

For the information of all offices, LOWMAN is the Executive Secretary of Circuit Riders, Inc., National Headquarters, 110 Government Place, Cincinnati 2, Ohio. This group is self described in a letter published 1/18/62 on the letterhead of Circuit Riders, Inc., which contains the statement, "Circuit Riders, Inc., was founded in 1951 to uphold those church leaders whose ministry and message is spiritual and moral in its emphasis and to expose and oppose the use of church facilities for socialistic, pro-Communistic and other anti-American Activities. Compilations of public records, indicating whose name appeared where in support of which cause, have been the major portion of Circuit Riders, Inc. publications."

For the information of all offices. the Cincinnati Office [redacted]

b7E

[redacted] NO information of any kind is furnished LOWMAN.

Cincinnati does not index publications of LOWMAN because all information of value appearing therein has been obtained through research from official investigating bodies, or through review of public source material, however, indexing of publications is being left to the decision of each office.

2 - Bureau

1 - Each office

1 - Cincinnati (100-11382)

TPS:sas

(55)

*Br. 16th May 1962
Editor*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY- 3 1962	
25	

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b7C

(I) CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC. -- It has recently come to the Bureau's attention that Circuit Riders, Incorporated, has published a book entitled "A Compilation of Public Records of 658 Clergymen and Laymen Connected With the National Council of Churches." A copy of this book was mailed directly to the Special Agent in Charge at one of our offices, and it is possible that other offices may receive copies of this book. For your information, the Circuit Riders is an organization made up primarily of laymen in the Methodist Church whose objective is to combat communism in the Methodist Church; however, the organization has no official connection with that Church. Myers G. Lowman is the Executive Secretary of the organization, and in recent years he has leveled numerous charges against clergymen, indicating they are sympathetic toward communism. Lowman has been critical in the past of speeches on communism by a Bureau official [redacted]

[redacted] contacts are most circumspect with him.

b7E

Lowman, through his organization, has disseminated several other books of a similar type as the current one, which is a compilation of affiliations of the officers and clergymen of the National Council of Churches in pacifist organizations, one-world groups, socialist organizations, popular-front-type of action groups and communist front organizations, publications, petitions, et cetera. The reliability of the material in Lowman's book has not been established, and you should, therefore, appropriately mark this book, if you should receive a copy, to the effect that there has been no corroboration of the material it contains and the FBI should in no instance utilize it as a source by itself. In all cases, the original source, if there is one, should be utilized rather than the book.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

Director

b6
b7C

5/8/62
SAC LETTER NO. 62-27

- 7 -

57-37126

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 9 1962	
FBI - LITTLE ROCK	

SA [Signature]

DIRECTOR, FBI

9/14/65

SAC, LITTLE ROCK (80-371)

CIRCUIT RIDERS, INC.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
CONCERNING

Re SAC Letter 62-27 (I).

[redacted] telephonically advised the Little Rock Office on 9/3/65 as follows:

b6
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She received a form letter in late August, 1965, inviting her to attend a meeting of "Circuit Riders" which was being held at the Albert Pike Hotel, Little Rock, Ark., on 9/2/65. She attended this meeting, and there were approximately 70 women in attendance. There were only 2 women connected with the Circuit Riders, one a Mrs. H. A. ALEXANDER from Grenada, Miss., who introduced the only speaker, MARTHA EDMONDSON from Dayton, Ohio. EDMONDSON stated that she had been a "Communist for the FBI" in Ohio. Her discussion was primarily concerning the evils of Communism, although she dwelt considerably on Communist infiltration into church groups.

The above is being furnished by Little Rock for the information of the Bureau, Cincinnati, and Jackson in the event MARTHA EDMONDSON's affiliation and the fact that she is lecturing concerning her previous connection with the FBI is not known.

2 - Bureau
1 - Cincinnati (Info)
1 - Jackson (Info)
1 - Little Rock
EFM/jew
(5)

80-371-27
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SAO DATE: 5/18/66

FROM: *[Signature]* ASAC JOHN D. POPE, JR.

RE: *[Signature]* BULKY EXHIBITS

In connection with self-inspection, I made a thorough check of bulky exhibits, accounting for all bulky exhibits, and it would appear that the following bulky exhibits are no longer needed and should be disposed of: Copy of memo being directed to agent to dispose of same:

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

Subject has been convicted, case closed. Evidence contained in bulky exhibit was not used at trial. No appeal has been made. There appears *No* reason for retaining. Should be disposed of.

[Redacted] handle.

[Redacted] UNSUB, aka [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Cardboard carton retained, yet no latents developed by Lab. No reason to retain. Case now closed. Should be disposed of.

[Redacted] handle.

1 - 26-18301
1 - 26-19623
1 - 26-20869
1 - 52-2202
1 - 62-1575
1 - 88-4710
1 - 91-2228
1 - 66-102...
1 - 70-586
1 - 80-371
1 - SA [Redacted]
1 - SA
1 - SA
1 - SA
1 - SA
1 - SA

b6
b7C

JDP:crc

66-

ALL COPIES PURGED & DESTROYED
AMT TO BUARTEL 11/13/66.

4/11/62 *[Signature]*

INITIALS: 3

80-371-28

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 19 1966	
FBI—LITTLE ROCK	

[redacted]
ITSMV

b6
b7C

Rear-view mirror was obtained upon which subject's prints had been developed. However, subject has now pleaded guilty in Birmingham and been sentenced under Rule 20. Suggest mirror be returned to owner of car or disposed of as case closed.

[redacted] handle.

52-2202
UNSUB; EXPLOSION OF A SIMULATOR
POSSIBLE TGP

Bulky exhibit consists of a fragment of a simulator which cannot be identified, and case has been closed. No reason to retain. Should be destroyed.

[redacted] handle.

b6
b7C
b6
b7C

Bulky exhibit consists of rolls of movie film taken in 1963 re contacts of bomb suspect. While [redacted] still a bomb suspect, it is doubtful whether film taken in 1963 would be of much value now. Suggest [redacted] review film to determine whether it should be retained.

[redacted] handle.

[redacted]
UFAP - ITSMV

b6
b7C

Bulky exhibit consists of a license tag which was not used in evidence. Subject has been convicted. Tag should be disposed of.

[redacted] handle.

[redacted]
ETM,
BANK ROBBERY

b6
b7C

Numerous items in bulky exhibits obtained during investigation of bank robbery, including guns in the vault. Case has been closed. All subjects have been sentenced. No appeals. No reason to retain property. Should be disposed of.

[redacted] handle.

In addition there are certain items in the bulky exhibits that it would appear would be of no more use:

66-102-1B, which contains reference material that would appear to be out of date. This should be checked. Suggest SAC review to determine whether it should be retained.

70-586-1B contains map of Little Rock Air Force Base obtained in 1956. No doubt away out of date and should be disposed of.

80-371 - Bulky exhibit received from Cincinnati concerning Circuit Riders, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contains compilation of public records of Presbyterian Church clergymen and Protestant Episcopal rectors. Undoubtedly this material is all out of date and should be disposed of.

Destroy
H
Do
Q